

Listing of Claims:

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6. (Original): The heating element of claim 4, wherein said first heat sink includes solid portions, and said solid portions of said first heat sink are aligned over said at least one PTC element such that said solid portions of said first heat sink substantially shield said at least one PTC element from being in the fluid pathway.

7. (Currently Amended): ~~The A heating element of claim 1, comprising:~~

a first heat sink having at least one opening, wherein a fluid pathway is
formed through said first heat sink;

a plurality of PTC elements radially arranged within a circle; and

at least one of the plurality of PTC elements thermally coupled to the first
heat sink and having a current direction, wherein the at least one PTC element is
substantially aligned such that said current direction is substantially parallel to said
fluid pathway.

8. (Original): The heating element of claim 7, wherein said radial arrangement comprises a plurality of radial flanges, and at least one radial flange includes a plurality of PTC elements.

9. (Currently Amended): The heating element of claim 4 7, further comprising a second heat sink attached to said first heat sink, wherein said first and second heat

sinks include electrically conductive material, and said at least one PTC element electrically contacts both said first and second heat sinks.

10. (Original): The heating element of claim 9, wherein said first and second heat sinks are configured to carry an electric supply to and from said at least one PTC element.

11. (Original): The heating element of claim 10, further comprising fasteners which attach said first heat sink to said second heat sink and electrically isolate said first heat sink from said second heat sink, wherein said fasteners are located and configured to generate pressure between said first and second heat sinks and said at least one PTC element.

12. (Currently Amended): The heating element of Claim 10, ~~comprising a~~ wherein the plurality of PTC elements, each ~~having~~ has a surface area, and are arranged radially within a circle, such that said fluid pathway is adjacent to less than 50% of said surface area of said plurality of PTC elements.

13. (Original): The heating element of claim 12, wherein said plurality of PTC elements are rectangular in shape.

14. (Original): The heating element of claim 13, wherein said first and second heat sinks include openings for permitting fluid flow and wherein said plurality of PTC elements are positioned at least partially away from said openings.

15. (Original): The heating element of claim 12, wherein said heating element is configured such that at least one of said heat sinks substantially shields said plurality of PTC elements from said fluid pathway.

16. (Original): The heating element of claim 12, wherein said radial arrangement comprises radial flanges, and said plurality of PTC elements is arranged such that there is more than one PTC element in at least one radial flange.

17. (Original): The heating element of claim 10, further comprising conductive grease between said plurality of PTC elements and said first and second heat sinks.

18. (Currently Amended): The heating element of claim 4 7, further comprising a second heat sink attached to said first heat sink and thermally coupled to said at least one PTC element, wherein said at least one PTC element transfers at least 80% of its heat output to said heat sinks.

30. (Currently Amended): ~~The A~~ heating element ~~of claim 27,~~ comprising:

a first heat sink having at least one opening formed through the heat sink,
wherein a fluid pathway is formed through said first heat sink;

a plurality of PTC elements radially arranged within a circle; and

one of said PTC elements being thermally coupled to the first heat sink, said
one PTC element being positioned substantially out of said fluid pathway and so that a
largest surface area of said one PTC element is approximately perpendicular to the
fluid pathway.

31. (Canceled)

32. (Currently Amended): The heating element of claim ~~34~~ 33, wherein said PTC element transfers at least 80% of its heat output to said first at least one heat sink.

33. (Currently Amended): ~~The A~~ heating element ~~of claim 31,~~ comprising:

at least one heat sink having at least one opening formed in the at least one
heat sink, wherein a fluid pathway is formed through said at least one opening in the
at least one heat sink;

a plurality of PTC elements arranged radially within a circle; and

one of said PTC elements being thermally coupled to the at least one heat sink such that at least 50% of the heat output by said one PTC element is transferred to heat sinks coupled to said one PTC element, and arranged so that a largest surface of said one PTC element is approximately perpendicular to said fluid pathway.

34. (Currently Amended): A heating element, comprising:

a first heat sink having at least one opening;

a second heat sink attached to said first heat sink and having at least one opening, wherein a fluid pathway is formed through said first and second heat sinks by way of said openings; ~~and~~

a plurality of PTC elements each having a current direction and radially arranged inside a circle, wherein the plurality of PTC elements ~~is~~ are substantially aligned in a single plane between the first and second heat sinks such that said current direction in said plurality of PTC elements is substantially parallel to said fluid pathway; and

~~wherein~~ said first and second heat sinks are configured to act as electrodes for said plurality of PTC elements.

35. (Currently Amended): A heating element, comprising:

a heat sink having at least one opening wherein a fluid pathway is formed through said heat sink; ~~and~~

a plurality of PTC elements arranged radially within a circle; and

at least one of the PTC elements in thermal communication with said heat sink, the heat sink and at least one of the PTC elements arranged such that said fluid pathway first passes one of said heat sink and said at least one PTC element and then passes the other of said heat sink and said at least one PTC element.

36. (New): A heating element, comprising:

a first heat sink having at least one opening, wherein a fluid pathway is formed through said first heat sink;

a plurality of PTC elements shielded from said fluid pathway, wherein the plurality of PTC elements are thermally coupled to the first heat sink and have a current direction; and

said plurality of PTC elements are substantially aligned such that said current direction is substantially parallel to said fluid pathway.

37. (New): A heating element, comprising:

a first heat sink having at least one opening;

a second heat sink attached to said first heat sink and having at least one opening, wherein a fluid pathway is formed through said first and second heat sinks by way of said openings;

